

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 47 of 1877.

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS
FOR THE
Week ending the 24th November 1877.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	“Bhárat Shramjíbí”	Baráhanagar ...	4,000	
2	“Rajshahye Sambád”	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	“Grámbártá Prakáshiká”	Comercolly ...	200	
4	“Arya Pratibhá”	Bhowanipore ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
5	“Culna Prakásh”	Culna ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	“Banga Hitaishi”	Bhowanipore ...	.....
7	“Bishwa Dút”	Táligunj, Calcutta ..	.....
8	“Bishwa Suhrid”	Mymensingh ...	450	
9	“Bhárat Mihir”	Do. ...	658	15th November 1877.
10	“Bhárat Sangskárak”	Calcutta ...	.....	12th ditto.
11	“Bengal Advertiser”	Do. ...	.....
12	“Dacca Prakásh”	Dacca ...	400	13th and 20th November.
13	“Education Gazette”	Hooghly ...	1,168	16th November.
14	“Moorshedabad Pratinidhi”	Berhampore ...	.....	16th ditto.
15	“Pratikár”	Do. ...	235	
16	“Grámbártá Prakáshiká”	Comercolly ...	200	17th ditto.
17	“Sambád Bháskar”	Calcutta ...	.....	12th ditto.
18	“Sulabha Samáchár”	Do. ...	5,500	17th ditto.
19	“Sádháraní”	Chinsurah ...	516	18th ditto.
20	“Hindu Hitaishini”	Dacca ...	300	17th ditto.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI—(Continued).			
	<i>Weekly—(Continued).</i>			
21	“Soma Prakásh”	Bhowanipore ...	700	19th November 1877.
22	“Sahachar”	Calcutta ...	.....	12th ditto.
23	“Hindu Raujiká”	Bauleah, Rajshahye	.....
24	“Rungpore Dik Prakásh” ...	Kákiniá, Rungpore	250	
25	“Burdwan Pracháriká”	Burdwan ...	165	
	<i>Daily.</i>			
26	“Sambád Prabhákar”	Calcutta ...	550	8th Oct. to 16th November.
27	“Sambád Púrnachandrodaya” ...	Do. ...	.....	16th to 21st November.
28	“Samáchár Chandriká”	Do. ...	625	12th to 14th ditto.
29	“Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká” ...	Do. ...	.....	12th to 19th ditto.
30	“Arya Mihir”	Do. ...	.....
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
31	“Amrita Bazar Patriká”	Do. ...	2,217	15th November.
32	“Howrah Hitakarí”	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	11th and 18th November.
33	“Moorshedabad Patriká”	Berhampore ...	.....	16th November.
34	“Burrisal Bártábaha”	Burrisal ...	300	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
35	“Urdu Guide”	Calcutta ...	400	17th ditto.
	URDU.			
	<i>Bi-monthly.</i>			
36	“Akhbár-ul-Akhiár”	Mozufferpore ...	.....
	HINDI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
37	“Behár Bandhu”	Bankipore, Patna...	509	
	PERSIAN.			
38	“Jám-Jahán-numá”	Calcutta ...	250	16th ditto.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

THE *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 11th November, deprecates an increase of *HOWRAH HITAKARI*, November 11th, 1877.

An increase of the stamp duties on the stamp duty on plaints, in suits cognizable by the Small Cause Courts, on the ground that this will press heavily on a large portion of the people who are constantly obliged to have recourse to these tribunals. A stamp duty on plaints could only be levied for two purposes : namely, (1) to raise a revenue from which to meet the cost of the administration of justice ; and (2) to impose a check on the prevalence of false litigation. Certainly Government does not aim at an entire discontinuance of recourse to courts of law. As to the policy of meeting the cost of administering justice from the stamp revenue, it may be observed that, in the case of the Small Cause Courts, the summary manner in which suits are disposed of by the Judges takes up but little time ; and it is not therefore fair to seek to levy a stamp duty from the suitors in these courts. An enhancement of the duty, under these circumstances, would only be a mockery of justice.

2. We extract the following from an article in the *Bhárat Sangskárak*,

The rule of the East India Company of the 12th November, headed, the "Rule of versus that of the Queen." the East India Company and that of the

Empress in India :—"A large number of natural calamities has befallen the country, ever since the Government passed into the hands of the Queen, twenty years ago. The frequent recurrence of dreadful famines, within this short period, naturally recalls to mind the prosperity which the people enjoyed in the days of old John Company. We do not of course hold Government responsible for the occurrence of events over which they have no control ; but that malarious fever should continue to rage in the country for years together, and famines recur with frequency, are matters for which we cannot help blaming Government ; because although these are Divine visitations, still the rulers can do much to prevent, or at least to check, them. It was clearly said by John Stuart Mill, that the transfer of the government to the hands of the Queen would be productive of injurious consequences to India ; and the truth of this remark is realized almost every day. The people groaned under the income tax shortly after the termination of the Company's rule ; and ever since that time the Indian debt has steadily increased, as also the salt duties and the army charges. India is thus gradually impoverished by means of overtaxation and excessive expenditure. If the country had not been thus drained of its resources, she might have, without much difficulty, passed through these periods of famine without soliciting an eleemosynary aid from England.

3. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Sahachar*,

The signs of the times. of the 12th November, headed, the "Signs of the

times" :— "The people of Bengal were overjoyed to hear of the appointment of Mr. Eden as their Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Eden began his public career in Bengal ; here he earned his fame ; and the people of Bengal supported him when he was bitterly attacked by his countrymen. None, on the other hand, has contended so much for the rights of the people as Mr. Eden. His name will endure for all time in this country, for the part he took in connection with the indigo riots. We have, however, to observe with regret, that a change has come over him ever since his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship. He commenced his administration with abusing the editors of native papers. His Honor is, of course, aware that by this act he has incurred the displeasure of the people, who had hoped

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
November 12th, 1877.

SAHACHAR,
November 12th, 1877.

that he would soon perceive his error. It was for this, that the native editors did not bestir themselves to make any united protest against the strictures he had passed upon them ; for the public was willing to believe that it was an old friend, who had, in an unguarded moment, used these expressions. We, therefore, observe with regret that it has become the settled policy of the Lieutenant-Governor to treat with rudeness the native editors, the educated natives, and at last the whole native population. Does His Honor really desire that the people should not be guided by the newspapers ? Is he so much opposed to an extension of their influence ? 'It is said that the respectable

* Resolution on the General Administration Report of the Patna Division for 1876-77, paragraph 16.

and educated Beharis do not attach any weight to the opinions of newspapers, known to be conducted by Bengalis.* Who said so ? On

what authority has this assertion been made ? Language such as this might well suit a Deputy Magistrate anxious to curry favour with the Commissioner ; but is it true ? Does His Honor himself believe this ? For some time, the remark was constantly made by the Punjabi politicians that 'the Bengalis are regarded with contempt by the Hindustanis and Sikhs ;' but the educated natives of the Punjab have, in an open meeting, declared this to be false. Does not Mr. Eden know what Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjea has done in connection with the civil service question ? That the different provinces of India may not enjoy the advantage of unity seems to be desired by a number of Europeans who are wanting in political foresight. But mark the conduct of the people ; their actions furnish abundant proofs that, the efforts of these Europeans and a thousand Edens notwithstanding, this result is certain to take place. To thoughtful Englishmen, on the contrary, this appears to be highly beneficial ; it is only the narrow-minded who suppose that, the more dissensions prevail among the people, the better it is for a ruler. We did not even dream that Mr. Eden belonged to this party ; and truth to tell, it grieves us intensely to find that the country differs from him. He has been, however, the aggressor. He has abused the Bengalis, for they are making progress in every direction, and especially in politics. We respectfully submit that, under a despotism, struggles for political rights on the part of the people are inevitable ; in fact without such struggles, the true right of the subject—namely, a representative system of government—is never obtained. Since these must take place, it is to be hoped that both parties will carry on their work honestly. While in all their actions the people should be guided by a feeling of loyalty to the rulers and obedience to the law, they have a right to expect that the authorities will not seek to cast any unjust aspersions on them. Faults should be pointed out in a friendly spirit. We ask our countrymen to watch the signs of the times. Mr. Eden bids fair to become a second Sir George Campbell ; and it is therefore to be regretted that, in fighting with him, the public will soon be obliged to have recourse to weapons which were found necessary in their struggles with that Governor."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
November 15th, 1877.

The condition of the tenantry and their relation to the landlord.

4. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 15th November, has an article headed, "Who is this ?—Sir George Campbell or Mr. Eden ?" It is remarked, "a perusal of the resolution of Government, on the administration report of the Patna Division, gives us a clear insight into the general views of Mr. Eden. From this we infer that he is, to a considerable degree, favourably disposed to his countrymen, and that he is not sufficiently kind to the zemindars. Nor is it clear from the official paper before us that his sympathy towards the ryots proceeds from a desire to do them good ; it is more likely an outcome of his hostility to the landlords. Although the condition of the tenantry in the

districts of the Patna Division is extremely miserable, and although every effort should be made to improve it, even at the cost of utterly ruining the landlords, still the policy adopted by Mr. Eden of creating discords between the parties is not likely to benefit the former. The same thing was done by Sir George Campbell; but it ruined the zemindar and ryot alike. We cannot even adequately conceive the extent of misery that will be brought upon the people of Behar, if they but abide by the advice of Mr. Eden. If His Honor really desires the good of the Behar tenantry, he should (1) restrict in a measure his kindness for the indigo-planters, and (2) check his feeling of hostility to the zemindars. In this country, the fate of the tenant is indissolubly bound up with that of his landlord: the prosperity of the one does not depend on the ruin of the other. The prevalence of discords between the two is greatly to be deplored."

5. The same paper observes with regret that the obsequiousness, with

which the officers, subordinate to Mr. Eden, have invariably echoed his sentiments regarding the chief public measures of his administration, has greatly lowered them in the estimation of

the people. The natives, although a subject people, hate obsequiousness; and they have been, therefore, much grieved to find an exhibition of this vice in the writings of many of the officials and in the Anglo-Indian Press. The prompt manner in which the strictures passed on the native newspapers by Mr. Eden have found response in the official reports has considerably amused the public.

6. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 17th November, writes an article

Governmental sojourn in Simla.

condemning the practice of the annual sojourn in Simla and other hill stations on the part

of the rulers. This is both expensive and detrimental to public interests, and cannot be too soon discontinued.

7. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 17th November, thinks it hard that,

Competent men only should share in spite of the known ability of natives in the the benefits of the public service. public service, Government should yet refuse

to allow them the same scale of salary with Europeans. It were much to be wished that competent men, whether Native or European, should equally share the benefits of the Government service.

8. The editor of the *Jám Jahánumá* calls for hundreds of blessings on

Amir Khan's release.

Lord Lytton, and praises him for having at length mercifully released the innocent victim

Amir Khán, a man of much piety and wealth, and whose property was confiscated.

9. An anonymous correspondent, writing from pergunnah Adílpur

Oppression of the amlahs of the zemindar of Adilpur. under date the 16th November, after giving a lengthy description of the oppressions prac-

tised on the ryots by the amlahs of the zemindárs, goes on to state that although the zemindár Bábu of Adílpur is neither avaricious nor tyrannical, yet from his habits of luxury and ease, he is unable to control or supervise his amlahs, whose oppressive acts towards the ryots are too well known already. These men have of late commenced interfering with the religious acts and duties of the Mussulmans in mouzah Charidah of this district, and they have even gone so far as to enforce their orders with blows: thus assuming to themselves powers which the Government does not venture upon. The correspondent trusts that the zemindár Bábu, who is an inhabitant of Calcutta, will, on seeing this published in the *Urdu Guide*, take measures to put a stop to the malpractices of his amlahs.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
November 15th, 1877.

HINDU HITAISHINI,
November 17th, 1877.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
November 17th, 1877.

JAM JAHANUMA,
November 18th, 1877.

URDU GUIDE,
November 17th, 1877.

SADHARANI,
November 18th, 1877.

10. The *Sádháraní*, of the 18th November, in noticing a violent outbreak of malarious fever this year on both

An outbreak of malarious fever.

sides of the river Hooghly, from Halishahar

down to Calcutta in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, and from Balagar to Howrah in the Howrah district, complains bitterly of the unsympathetic attitude assumed by Government towards the sufferings of the people from this scourge. The writer exhorts all classes of the community to strive by every means in their power to arrest its progress, for there is no hope so long as it continues to decimate the population.

SADHARANI.

11. The same paper rejoices over the fact that the *Leader*, a weekly paper, which was violently hostile to the

The *Leader* discontinued.

natives in its writings, has ceased to exist. It

is also a matter of gratification that the English public did not, in any large measure, extend their patronage to the vituperative writings of the defunct journal.

SADHARANI.

12. We make the following extracts from an article in the same paper on the condition of the tenantry in Behar:—“No

The condition of the tenantry in Behar.

matter why, Mr. Eden has deemed it necessary to administer a reproof to the native news-

papers of Bengal, and has, for this purpose, sought to prove the untruthfulness of their writings. From the native press constantly harping on the poverty of the tenantry, His Honor has been obliged to declare the contrary; and his impulsive disposition naturally led him to exaggerate matters. He described their condition as having improved in every respect; while a partial improvement was all that might, in justice, be claimed on their behalf. There had been no such discussion going on regarding the condition of the tenantry in Behar; and the Lieutenant-Governor also has, therefore, freely admitted the fact of their deplorable poverty. Almost every day we are furnished with proofs of this—(1) About a 14-anna portion of the large number of Hindustani servants, who come to these districts in quest of employment, are either Beharis or Máithils. They would never have thus left their country, if there had been plenty at home. (2) Whenever there is insufficient rainfall, the people of Behar and Mithilá are the first to suffer; yet these are the largest corn-producing provinces. It is the chronic poverty of the inhabitants which is the cause of all their misfortunes. This has been brought about by several causes, among which may be noted the opium trade and the cultivation of the poppy, although the authorities are never found to advert to them. We, however, during the Behar famine, clearly showed that in that province, the best lands being taken up for the cultivation of the poppy, and being guarded with embankments for the prevention of inundations, generally the country has been injured and the peasantry impoverished.” The writer here quotes what was written in this journal four years ago, by a correspondent, who had an acquaintance with this part of the country. We also reproduce his observations from our report of the 25th April 1874 (paragraph 37):—

“The following reasons are assigned for the severity of the famine in North Behar, comprising the districts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun:—(1) in North Behar, opium cultivation is carried on by Government on an extensive scale: it is believed that land taken up for this purpose is not less in extent than one-fourth of the area of the country; (2) the best and the greater part of the land is used for indigo cultivation; and (3) the stoppage of the water-courses in the country by the embankments of the Gunduk.”

The editor is not satisfied that Mr. Eden should leave the task of reforming the abuses connected with the cultivation of indigo in Behar to the planters themselves, the very men who are responsible for their existence. Such a line of conduct certainly does not become His Honor, who is well known as a friend of the ryots, and as one who delivered those of Bengal from indigo oppression. We give the concluding paragraph of the article:—

"If the Lieutenant-Governor has been, as formerly, really affected by the sufferings of the tenantry in Behar, let him again act over the part of Sir John Peter Grant; and so arrange that the tribunals in Behar may be presided over by officers possessing the independence and impartiality, which characterized the Magistrate Mr. Ashley Eden. To expect a reform of the indigo abuses from the Planters' Association might do well enough as an act of partiality towards them in the ruler, but this is not a step towards the emancipation of the tenantry. Nor will Mr. Eden's fame continue unimpaired, if he remains content with only casting the blame on the shoulders of the zemindars."

13. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the necessity of using means for the repression of quack doctors, a large number of whom exist in every village, and by their unskilful treatment accelerate death. The subject should be promptly attended to.

14. The *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 18th November, complains that in India, Government resorts to acts which are strongly reprobated in England, and which it has itself characterized as worthy of Asiatic rulers. The editor then refers to the loans recently asked by Government in a private manner from wealthy natives of this country.

15. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 18th November, contains an editorial on the prevalence of intemperance. His observations are the same as those noticed in paragraphs 13 and 15 of our last report.

16. The *Soma Prakash*, of the 19th November, devotes two long editorials to the subject of famine and the condition of the tenantry in Behar. The frequent recurrence of famines and the misery of the native peasantry, especially that of Behar, are both due to their chronic poverty. Mr. Eden is mistaken in the opinion, that the zemindars and the thikadars are alone responsible for this state of things. A well-to-do peasantry is never reluctant to pay to the landlords a little more than what may be due to them; and, as in Bengal, they even submit to the levy of illegal cesses without much opposition. There would have been no agrarian disputes if the landlords in Bengal had remained content with this. They, however, seek an enhancement of the rent-rate; and this is what the tenantry resist with all their might. The extreme poverty of the mass of the people in Behar being the sole cause of their misfortunes, it behoves a paternal Government to adopt such measures as will ameliorate their condition. It should seek to impart education to the Beharis on an extensive scale. This is one of the first needs of that province, in which the people are steeped in ignorance and are no better than overworked brutes, whom their employers allow a bare subsistence. Schools for teaching agriculture and other manufacturing industries should also be established. A change in the style of living and the domestic economy of the people must take place before there is any real improvement.

SADHARANI,
November 18th, 1877.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
November 18th, 1877.

DACCA PRAKASH,
November 18th, 1877.

SOMA PRAKASH,
November 19th, 1877.

EDUCATION.

DACCA PRAKASH,
November 11th, 1877.

17. In an article headed, the "Teaching of English in the vernacular schools, &c.," the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 11th November, makes the same observations as those noticed in paragraphs 14 and 16 of our report of the 3rd November.

SAHACHAR,
November 12th, 1877.

Changes in the Education Department.
Text-books in Bengali for the Entrance examination of the Calcutta University.

18. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th November, has a long article headed "The Calcutta University," in which it dwells upon the proceedings of the meeting lately held to consider the question of the revision of the text-books in Bengali for the Entrance examination of the University. The writer, although he has the highest respect for the age and attainments of Dr. K. M. Banerjea, takes exception to his appointment as a member of this committee, on the ground that for many years past the books written by him have been used as text-books. His presence in the committee, therefore, was not favourable to a free expression of the opinions of the other members as to the merits of these works. In spite of the important services rendered to the Bengali language by Dr. Banerjea, his literary productions, owing to the antiquated style in which they are composed, are not suited to meet the requirements of the language at the present day. The task of revising the text-books should have been entrusted to such men as Pandit Ishwara Chandra Vidyáságara, Babus Prasanna Kumár Sarvádhikári, Bhúdeb Mookerjee, Kristakamal Bhattacháryya, and Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nyáyaratna.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 15th, 1877.

Changes in the Education Department.
19. In an article on the changes recently proposed in the Education Department, the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 15th November, agrees in the remarks lately made by

the *Sádháraní*, which have been noticed in paragraph 11 of our report of the 10th November. The writer makes the following additional suggestions:—
(1) In minor scholarship schools greater attention should be paid to the study of English than to that of the vernaculars. (2) There should be no English taught in purely vernacular schools. (3) The proposed ruling of Mr. Croft, that no one should be allowed to compete in the minor scholarship examination who has not passed the vernacular test, is likely to be injurious in its consequences; for if it is carried out, very few only will be able to study English. (4) The proposal to teach English grammar through the medium of vernacular translations cannot be too soon given up.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
November 16th, 1877.

Changes in the Education Department.
20. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 16th November, is opposed to the proposed changes in the Education Department; and observes that, as service is the only means of earning a livelihood left to the sons of the respectable middle classes, who are not in affluent circumstances, and as a knowledge of English is the only passport to it, it behoves the native lads to devote all their energies to attain this qualification.

LOCAL.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
November 16th, 1877.

The excavation of a canal asked for.

21. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 16th November, complains that the silting up of the channel of the Jamuna river has occasioned extreme inconvenience to the inhabitants of about a hundred villages situated to the south of the Kaligunge canal, numbering about eight or ten thousand. Owing to a scarcity of fresh water, agricultural operations cannot be carried on; while the river not being navigable by boats, all trade is at a standstill. There is, indeed, a road to Jessore, but it is bordered by dense jungle infested

(9)

with wild beasts. Government is, therefore, besought to stop the mouth of the Kaligunge canal, and cause the excavation of another along the northern side of Nakipore, and up to the Kholpatua river. The stoppage of the mouth of the Kaligunge canal will also bring water into the silted-up channel of the Jamuna.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 24th November 1877.

